



Facts about Stormwater Runoff:

What is it?

What are the impacts of polluted stormwater?

What is Stormwater Runoff?

Stormwater runoff is caused by rain and snowmelt as it flows over ground surfaces. Stormwater from paved areas results in greater runoff volumes compared to vegetated areas where it can soak into the ground.

Stormwater that is collected from paved areas flows through a system of inlets and pipes before it enters lakes, rivers and streams.



Impacts of Polluted Stormwater

Stormwater can carry debris, chemicals, nutrients, sediment and other pollutants to downstream waters. These pollutants can impact human health, vegetation and wildlife.



Common Sources of Pollutants

- Litter and debris
- Vehicles: Fossil fuels (lead), brake pads (copper & cadmium), engine fluid leaks (oil & grease), galvanized metals (zinc)
- Paint & petroleum based solvents
- Nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous from fertilizers
- Sediment from soil erosion

